

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit, comprising at least two bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ which are displaceably supported with respect to each other, at least one of which bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ comprises two metals means parts ~~(9, 10; 17, 19)~~ which are connected to each other through a connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~, characterised in that wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a brazed and/or soldered connection ~~(14, 15; 22)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ also comprises at least one further connection, e.g. a welded ~~(16; 27)~~, screwed ~~(30)~~ glued or a plastically formed ~~(23)~~ connection.

3. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the bearing means are carried out as ring means ~~(1, 2)~~ which are rotatably supported with respect to each other, at least one of said ring means ~~(1, 2)~~ comprising ring means parts ~~(9, 10; 17, 19)~~ which are connected through a connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ which comprises a brazed and/or a soldered connection ~~(14, 15; 22)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 3, wherein at least two series of rolling elements ~~(7, 8)~~ are provided which are each in contact with

respective raceways ~~(3, 4)~~ of both ring means parts ~~(9, 10)~~, wherein each ring means part ~~(9, 10)~~ is connected to an intermediate ring part ~~(12, 13)~~ through a brazed connection ~~(14, 15)~~, and said intermediate ring parts ~~(12, 13)~~ are connected to each other through a welded connection ~~(16)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein at least two series of rolling elements ~~(7, 8)~~ are provided which are each in contact with respective raceways ~~(5, 6)~~ of both ring means parts ~~(17, 19)~~, one of said ring means parts ~~(17)~~ comprising an abutment ~~(42)~~ and being connected to an intermediate ring part ~~(25)~~ through a brazed connection ~~(22)~~, said intermediate ring part ~~(25)~~ comprising a flange ~~(23, 26, 29)~~ which is positioned at one axial end of the other ring means part ~~(19)~~, the other end of which abutting against said abutment ~~(42)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange ~~(29)~~ is connected to the intermediate ring part ~~(23)~~ through a screw connection ~~(30)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange ~~(26)~~ is connected to the intermediate ring part ~~(25)~~ through a welded connection ~~(27)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 5, wherein the flange ~~(23)~~ is obtained through plastic deformation of the intermediate ring part ~~(25)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of claims 3-8~~ claim 3, wherein the ring means parts ~~(9, 10)~~ and the intermediate ring parts ~~(12, 13)~~ together constitute an inner ring means ~~(2)~~ and/or an outer ring means ~~(1)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11;; 18; 24; 28)~~ have concentric facing surfaces which enclose a layer of brased material ~~(22; 32)~~.

11: (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the bearing means are slidably supported with respect to each other.

12. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a relatively high grade material, e.g. a low carbon, high strength steel material, stainless steel or non-ferro materials like copper alloys, nickel alloys etc.

13. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the connection means ~~(11; 18, 24, 28)~~ comprises a light weight material, e.g. aluminium, titanium, magnesium or their alloys.

14. (Currently Amended) Bearing unit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ and/or the connection means ~~(11; 18; 24; 28)~~ comprises a ceramic component.

15. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly, comprising a bearing unit with at least two bearing means ~~(1, 2)~~ which are displaceably supported with respect to each other, and an auxiliary unit ~~(31)~~ which is connected to at least one of said bearing means through a connection means ~~(36)~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the connection means ~~(36)~~ comprises a brazed or soldered connection ~~(32)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15, wherein the connection means ~~(36)~~ also comprises at least one further connection, e.g. a welded, screwed, glued or plastically formed connection.

17. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises brake means, e.g. a brake disc or a brake drum ~~(35)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises a cooling element, e.g. a vane member.

19. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the auxiliary unit comprises a mounting flange ~~(44, 45, 46)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) Bearing assembly according to claim 19, wherein the mounting flange ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ comprises a cast iron material, e.g. an ausformed ductile iron.